

REMARKS

The application includes claims 1-3 and 10-26 prior to entering this amendment.

The Examiner rejected claims 16-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Watanabe (U.S. Patent 7,034,969). The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu (U.S. Patent 6,040,923), Iizuka (U.S. Patent 6,721,009), and Sakakibara (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0053157). The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Watanabe. The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe and Sakakibara. The Examiner rejected claims 20-21 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe and Iizuka.

Applicant amends claims 1, 15, and 22. Claims 1-3 and 10-26 remain in the application after entering this amendment. Applicant does not add new matter and requests reconsideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 16-19 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Watanabe. The Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe and Sakakibara. The Examiner rejected claims 20-21 and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Watanabe and Iizuka. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 15 recites *pre-scanning one or more portions of a document with a sensing device to determine an effective region of the sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document.*

There is no disclosure of these claim features in Watanabe, as Watanabe discloses presetting its regions 42-1, 42-2, and 42-3 of the CCD regardless of film size and projection area. See, Watanabe, col. 11, lines 49-62. Nothing in Sakakibara cures this deficiency, as Sakakibara also presets its scanning regions based on the resolution of the scan. See, e.g., Sakakibara, Figure 8 and corresponding portions of the specification, where Sakakibara discloses including preset dummy pixels in its CCD line sensor that are adjacent to its 7500 effective pixels. Since the combination of Sakakibara and Watanabe fails to teach or suggest the above recited claim features, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner remove the instant rejection to claim 15 and its corresponding dependent claims.

With regard to dependent claims 16-19, the Examiner admits that the Watanabe reference fails to teach or suggest claims features of independent claim 15, from which claims 16-19 depend. See, Office Action, pages 12-13. Thus, the Watanabe reference alone cannot anticipate

16-19 claims as the Examiner contends. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner to remove the instant rejection to claims 16-19.

Since claim 22 recites claim features that are generally similar to those discussed above in claim 15, claim 22 and its corresponding dependent claims are allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection to claims 22-26.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Sakakibara. The Examiner rejected claims 10-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Watanabe. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Claim 1 recites *pre-scanning one or more portions of a document with an optical sensing device to determine an effective region of the optical sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document, and scanning at least a first portion of the document to produce induced charges in the optical sensing device.*

There is no disclosure of these claim features in Takashimizu, Iizuka, or Sakakibara. For instance, Iizuka discloses presetting its middle portion 1C and unnecessary portions 1L and 1R according to a predetermined aspect ratio. See, e.g., Iizuka, col. 7, lines 47-63. As discussed above with regard to claim 15, Sakakibara also presets its scanning regions based on the resolution of the scan. See, e.g., Sakakibara, Figure 8 and corresponding portions of the specification. Nothing in Takashimizu cures this deficiency. See, e.g., Takashimizu, col. 9, lines 28-32, where Takashimizu discloses setting reading widths of its CCDs 40-1 and 40-2 based on a paper size determined from a size sensor 44. In other words, Takashimizu does not teach or suggest utilizing its CCDs 40-1 and 40-2 for *pre-scanning one or more portions of a document with an optical sensing device to determine an effective region of the optical sensing device that corresponds to the scanned document.* Since the combination of Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Sakakibara fails to teach or suggest the above recited claim features, Applicant requests that the Examiner to remove the instant rejection to claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims.

Claim 1 further recites *shielding a front region and a post region of the optical sensing device from light when scanning the document*.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner that Takashimizu and Iizuka do not teach or suggest the recited claim features. The Examiner argues that Sakakibara's light shielding portion discloses the recited shielding. There is no disclosure in Sakakibara of *shielding a front region and a post region of the optical sensing device from light when scanning the document*. See, e.g., Sakakibara, paragraph [0060], where Sakakibara shields light from a single region of a CCD located adjacent to a dummy pixel region. Since the combination of Takashimizu, Iizuka, and Sakakibara fails to disclose the above-recited claim features, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the instant rejection to claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims.

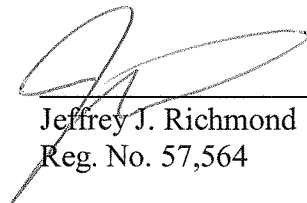
CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims. Applicant encourages the examiner to telephone the undersigned if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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